

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-07 EUR-12 PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:PAW

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AID/ASIA/EA:SJLITTLEFIELD (SUB.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 230843

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CASC, RP

SUBJECT: OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AP TICKER FROM MANILA, DATED
SEPTEMBER 17:

QUOTE THE OWNER OF A MISSING PLANE CARRYING TOP OFFICIALS
OF THE U.S., JAPANESE AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES SAID
TODAY HE HAD TO GO 1,500 MILES TO SINGAPORE TO GET A SIGNAL
DETECTOR BECAUSE THE PHILIPPINES HAVE NOT ASKED FOR U.S.
HELP IN THE HUNT.

QUOTE HE SAID A SIMILAR DEVICE WAS AVAILABLE AT CLARK AIR
BASE, 40 MILES FROM HERE. THE DETECTOR BROUGHT THURSDAY
FROM SINGAPORE WAS USED TO PICK UP SIGNALS BELIEVED COMING
FROM THE MISSING PLANE.

QUOTE INNER QUOTE I UNDERSTAND CLARK HAS ITS OWN HOMING
DEVICE, END INNER QUOTE SAID ROMY MOSCARDON, PRESIDENT OF
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PHILAIR, OWNER OF THE MISSING PLANE. HE REFERRED TO AN

EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER HE BROUGHT THURSDAY FROM SINGAPORE.

QUOTE INNER QUOTE BUT WE ARE CIVIL(IAN), END INNER QUOTE HE SAID, BEGIN INNER QUOTE AND THE DEVICE CAN BE REQUESTED ONLY THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT. END INNER QUOTE. MOSCARDON SAID AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE GOVERNMENT MADE NO REQUEST FOR THE DEVICE.

QUOTE HIS CHARTER FIRM'S TWO-ENGINE PIPER NAVAJO DIS-APPEARED MONDAY WITH SIX DIPLOMATS AND TWO PHILIPPINE CREWMEN FIVE MINUTES BEFORE ITS SCHEDULED LANDING IN A TROPICAL RAINSTORM IN MANILA.

QUOTE AMONG THOSE ABOARD WERE THE MISSION DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, GARNETT ZIMMERLY, U.S. EMBASSY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COUNSELLOR (SIC) EDWARD CHENNEY(SIC), AND HENRY LEE, ALTERNATE U.S. DIRECTOR FOR THE MANILA-BASED ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

QUOTE MOSCARDON SAID SEARCHERS WERE HEADING TOWARD A MOUNTAINOUS AREA 25 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MANILA TO CHECK REPORTS OF WRECKAGE SIGHTED THERE.

QUOTE SCHOONOVER (SIC) ALSO SAID U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE ON STANDBY AT CLARK WAITING FOR A CALL BUT NONE HAS FLOWN WITH THE PHILIPPINE SEARCHERS FOR FIVE DAYS. END QUOTE.

2. REQUEST CLARIFICATION AND GUIDANCE FOR ANSWERING EXPECTED PRESS QUERIES SOONEST.

ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, RESCUE OPERATIONS
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Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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